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BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

"The Quest"

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BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

"THE QUEST"

LIST OF CHARACTERS

CATHERINE
VINCENT
FATHER

AEROBIC INSTRUCTOR
ERLIK
WINSLOW
PASCAL
JAMIE
PARACELSUS
NARCISSA
WATERMAN

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

"THE QUEST"

SETS

INTERIOR

CATHY'S APARTMENT

- LIVING ROOM
- TERRACE

CHAMBER OF THE WINDS (MATTE)

- DEEP CREVASSE (MATTE)
- DESCENDING TUNNEL

PASCAL'S PIPE CHAMBER (MATTE) (STOCK)

DEEP TUNNELS

- LONG TUNNELS
- MINING SHAFT
- WIND TUNNEL

COLISEUM CHAMBER

- FIRST LEVEL
- FIRST LEVEL OPENING
- PIT

UPPER TUNNELS

- ND TUNNEL

MIDDLE TUNNELS

HOLE CHAMBER

VINCENT'S CHAMBER

PARACELSUS' CAVE

CAVERN WITH FIRE

UNDERGROUND LAKE

- SHORE
- WATERMAN'S LEAN-TO
- OPPOSITE SHORE

LABYRINTH

- PERPENDICULAR JUNCTION
- DEAD END

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

"THE QUEST"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1
thru OMITTED
4

4A AN AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR

perfectly toned, leading her class of beautiful people in the latest form of physical torture. She has to yell to make her voice heard over the blaring techno-pop soundtrack, keeping time...

INSTRUCTOR

Okay. Now with the arms... four,
Five, six...

Happily, effortlessly, the automatons join right in.

WIDEN, and we are:

5 INT. CATHY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Where Cathy, in navy blue sweats and shoes, is anything but happy or effortless, as she tries to keep pace with the video workout - doing jumping jacks with her legs and windmills with her arms.

INSTRUCTOR

...SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE TEN. One
More time. Three, four, five,
Six, almost done, nine, ten. Okay,
Lets bring it down...

Cathy exhales a sigh of relief. This she can do... when she notices the curtains to her balcony billowing, the door half open. She stops working out and looks more carefully. A silhouette passes before the curtain.

CATHY

Vincent?

As she crosses the room and steps out onto:

6 THE TERRACE

and approaches the hooded, cloaked figure who turns toward her from the slanting shadows...

6 CONTINUED:

CATHY
Vincent...

Only it's not Vincent. Into the light steps an enormous and bearded giant-warrior, ERLIK. For a moment, Cathy is paralyzed with fear.

FLASHCUT

6A INT. VINCENT'S CHAMBER - SAME TIME

Vincent senses her panic, starts his journey toward her.

6B RESUME CATHY

gasping as Erlik swipes at her in a broad, fast, sweep ...bringing a large black cloth, sparkling with an anaesthetic drug, toward her face.

7 HER POV

as the blackness overwhelms her. The only sound now is the drone of the aerobics class. HOLD. Then:

FADE IN;

8 INT. CHAMBER OF THE WINDS - NIGHT - (MATTE)

The wind moans like a dirge sung by some unseen choir. From the dark shadows, Erlik appears, carrying Catherine over his shoulder, descending the large stairs, each step echoing with metronomic sure-footedness. As they disappear down and down, as if into the very bowels of the earth, we:

DISSOLVE TO;

9 EXT. CATHY'S TERRACE - NIGHT

Vincent now stands at the threshold of the terrace, facing into the apartment, the curtains billowing behind him...

VINCENT
(calling)
Catherine.

But there's no response. Vincent's face reflects a darkening suspicion, as he turns back out onto the terrace, moves to the railing.

10 ANGLE - VINCENT

from the side, looking out to the nightscape of Manhattan as if in hope of an answer, when something twinkles below, at the periphery of his vision. He turns and:

11 RACK FOCUS

on a one-ounce gold coin lying on the ground beside him, twisted and half-melted. Vincent kneels to pick it up, then palms it thoughtfully, knowingly, as a voice from the past echoes within his memory.

PARACELSUS' VOICE

I know more about you than your name. . .

Vincent looks down at the gold coin in his palm. Then:

PARACELSUS' VOICE

(derisive)

Found as a baby outside St. Vincent's Hospital...

CUT TO:

12 INT. PARACELSUS' GARDEN - CLOSE ON PARACELSUS (FLASHBACK)

whose face is etched with pity and disdain

PARACELSUS

Did you really believe that all these years?

12A RESUME VINCENT

in the present, reflecting painfully on those words, and:

PARACELSUS' VOICE

Did you really believe --?

CUT TO:

13 CU - PARACELSUS' WRIST (FLASHBACK)

from which the jagged dagger springs forth, glistening, and:

14 ANOTHER ANGLE

as Paracelsus deftly slashes Vincent across the chest, sending Vincent backward into a table, his lantern spinning in the air...

Vincent touches his hand to the bloody gash on his chest, but Paracelsus is upon him. Vincent catches his wrist, and with his other hand, strikes Paracelsus, who flies back and falls into an unconscious heap.

The fire is spreading quickly around them, igniting row by row -- spitting up flames of every color. Vincent hoists Paracelsus up, arm-over-shoulder, supporting him across the back, and begins carrying him down the aisle, toward safety, Paracelsus' feet dragging like a puppet's, into:

15 ADJOINING TUNNEL

as Paracelsus begins to regain consciousness. His face registers horror at the conflagration that's framed by the tunnel entrance. Paracelsus shrugs out from under Vincent's support. Vincent moves toward him, but Paracelsus lifts his wrist-knife, brandishing it against Vincent's advancing figure. Paracelsus' eyes glaze in manic defiance.

VINCENT

Come with me. There's nothing
for you here.

PARACELSUS

(shakes his head;
realizing)
My gold... my gold!

Vincent tries to grab Paracelsus, but with this last utterance, the old man rushes back to his garden. Vincent starts after him, when a burst of flame spits through the entrance, consuming Paracelsus' running figure, which disappears now in a wall of fire. And as the conflagration continues, reflected in Vincent's tormented eyes, we PUSH IN SLOWLY and...

FATHER'S VOICE

Paracelsus?

MATCH CUT TO:

16 VINCENT

still tormented, agitated, very much in the present, and we are:

17 INT. VINCENT'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Father is seated behind a desk, trying to digest both this difficult news and Vincent's strange state.

FATHER

But how? I thought --

VINCENT

(overriding)

He's alive, Father.

As Vincent says this, he tosses the gold coin onto Father's desk, almost defiantly. The coin is proof enough.

VINCENT

And he's taken Catherine

FATHER

Do you know where?

VINCENT

No... Our connection has been broken somehow... and part of me is lost. I've never felt so helpless.

(choked)

I'm afraid even to wonder.

Vincent bows his head, as Father rises from behind his desk and moves toward him.

FATHER

I know Paracelsus. However twisted his mind may be, it's still complex... full of structures and designs.

(then)

If he meant to kill Catherine, he would have done so already.

Consoled by Father's logic Vincent slowly looks, up at Father.

FATHER

He's luring you, Vincent. Calling you away from this place of safety.

VINCENT

I have no choice but to try and find her.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

FATHER
(distraught)
I know...

Beat, as Vincent shakes his head.

VINCENT
Father: why is Paracelsus doing
this?

FATHER
Because in his mind, you are all
that prevents his return to our
world... a world he still
considers his own.

As Vincent picks up the gold coin...

FATHER
(continuing)
I'm afraid the consequences of
his action may extend far beyond
Catherine.

... and regards it in his palm thoughtfully.

VINCENT
Yes.

FATHER
The very future of what we've
built here is in the balance.
You must expect anything. And you
must be careful. Paracelsus has
misled you before.

VINCENT
I haven't forgotten.

AS Vincent's gaze focuses inward, remembering...

PARACELSUS' VOICE
I know more about you than your
name.

Father notices Vincent's distant torment.

FATHER
Vincent?

Vincent regards Father, listening.

17 CONTINUED:

FATHER

I promise you: there is a truth
beyond knowledge.

After a beat, Vincent nods, and closes his fist around
the coin.

VINCENT

I will take care, Father.

18 INT - PASCAL'S PIPE CHAMBER - NIGHT (MATTE)

People are communicating. The pipes are alive, tapping and
clanging. Pascal sits on Winslow's shoulders, reattaching a
loose fixture on the ceiling of the chamber. Winslow groans
and suffers under Pascal's weight.

WINSLOW

Ever hear of a ladder, Pascal?

PASCAL

(straining)

Just one more second. I've almost
got it.

(beat)

There.

Winslow helps Pascal clamber down off his shoulders

PASCAL

Thanks, Winslow.

(looking around)

Now where're my sticks?

Still irritable, Winslow gestures to the corner, where
Pascal's sticks are leaning against the wall.

WINSLOW

Surprise, right where you left
them.

As Pascal bends down to retrieve the sticks, something
catches his attention... an old, rusted stump of a pipe
that thrusts through the floor of the chamber. Pascal
hunkers down to listen. A faint pinging.

WINSLOW

What is it?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

Grabbing his sticks, Pascal springs to his feet and, moving deftly through the chamber, taps out a signal on all the pipes: an emergency quiet. It takes a few seconds, but gradually the chamber goes SILENT -- except for the old pipe, which continues sounding, barely audible, a message repeated over and over again.

WINSLOW
Why the all-quiet?

PASCAL
Shhh.

WINSLOW
Pascal --

PASCAL
Listen.

Winslow concentrates. After a moment:

WINSLOW
I don't recognize the code.

PASCAL
I'm remembering.
(beat)
Yes. A repeated sequence. Just
one word.
(to the sound of the
pipe)
Vincent... Vincent... Vincent...

On Winslow's reaction, we:

TIME DISSOLVE TO:

19 INT. PASCAL'S PIPE CHAMBER - LATER

Pascal glances up from the old pipe, as Winslow leads Vincent into the chamber.

PASCAL
Vincent!

VINCENT
Has it stopped?

PASCAL
No. Like a machine

VINCENT
Let me listen.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

Pascal moves aside, and Vincent kneels to listen to the sounding. He places his hands around the stump of the pipe, trying to intuit the presence on the other end. After a moment.

PASCAL
Is it Catherine?

Vincent shakes his head.

VINCENT
(straightening)
Tell me, Pascal, where does this pipe lead?

PASCAL
Down, down... below the seventh level. After that...
(shrugs; then)
It's been silent ever since I can remember.

VINCENT
How far away's the tapping?

PASCAL
Hard to say. The pipe twists in and out of bedrock. But judging by the faintness -- three day's travel... two at least.

VINCENT
And the code?

PASCAL
Archaic. One of the very first my father taught me. A Morse derivative. You remember, Vincent: before we shorthanded the system.

VINCENT
So Paracelsus would know this code...

Pascal exchanges a concerned glance with Winslow. Then:

PASCAL
He probably invented it

Vincent considers this.

(CONTINUED)

VINCENT

Pascal, do you think you could
take me there... to the source?

PASCAL

I don't know. I could try.

VINCENT

Would you?

PASCAL

Of course.

VINCENT

Then prepare your things. We must
leave at once.

Vincent starts out of the chamber. Winslow calls after him.

WINSLOW

Vincent.

Vincent pivots to face him.

WINSLOW

I'm going too.

VINCENT

Winslow, thank you. But already
the danger's too great.

WINSLOW

If Paracelsus has Catherine, then
the danger is to all of us.

VINCENT

Yes. But we should try and limit
the risk.

WINSLOW

(flashing)

Vincent... I got my reasons.

Vincent reads the seriousness of Winslow's resolve.

WINSLOW

(softening)

Besides, Pascal says the journey
could be many days. You'll need
sleep. Somebody will have to stand
watch. And three shifts are safer
than two.

19 CONTINUED: (3)

Vincent is silent for a beat. Then he places a hand on each of their shoulders.

VINCENT

You are my friends. I accept your help. But our path... is uncertain. Both of you must promise to return at the first sign of trouble.

WINSLOW

I promise.

Vincent looks to Pascal.

PASCAL

I promise.

VINCENT

(beat)

Then we'll go. The three of us... together.

CAMERA captures the resolve in all their faces, as we:

CUT TO:

19A INT. UNDERGROUND LAKE - NIGHT

still unconscious, Cathy lies in the hull of a dory, as Erlik ferries her across this shallow and beautiful body of water.

CUT TO:

20 INT. DEEP TUNNELS - LABYRINTH

The heat is thick down here, hellish. Cathy begins to come to consciousness, and Erlik sets her down on her feet.

21 CLOSE ON CATHY

Sweat stinging her eyes. She looks warily at Erlik, but is too dazed to make a break for it. Instead she tries to get her bearings, noting landmarks, etc.

22 BACK TO SCENE

Still dazed and rocky, Cathy is led through the circular maze -- past volcanic rock formations, like sculptures. Steam escapes through fissures in the walls. She falters, and Erlik forces her onward.

CUT TO:

23 INT. COLISEUM CHAMBER - LATER - (MATTE)

MOVING with Cathy and Erlik as they emerge from a narrow, dark tunnel into the vastness and light of this natural amphitheater -- forged eons ago from hot lava. Several other tunnels converge on the first level where they now stand. An open pit, ringed by a twenty-foot obsidian wall, is below them. Erlik pushes Cathy forward, and only now does she notice the tall and gaunt figure standing before her, his back turned. Slowly, he pivots...

24 HER POV

It is Paracelsus, half his face covered by a pounded-gold mask, extending from his chin to just above his cheekbone. Both eyes bore into her.

25 BACK TO SCENE

She recognizes him, but from where? Then she knows...

CATHY

Paracelsus...

On Paracelsus, impassive and evil, we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

26 INT. TUNNELS - ND JUNCTION - DAY

26

Simultaneous voices create a white noise din as a cluster of tunnel denizens, including Father, Jamie, and Kipper gather around Vincent, Winslow, and Pascal. The travelers accept gifts as they pack the last of their provisions in makeshift knapsacks, each with a lantern strung to the side. Kipper is handing each of them a beautiful stone, polished and variegated. To Vincent, who receives his last:

KIPPER

It's for good luck

VINCENT

(smiling)

Thank you, Kipper.

Vincent pockets the stone and addresses the assembled group.

VINCENT

And all of you, for your good wishes.

As Vincent slings the pack over his shoulder, Father steps toward Vincent. The look passes between them is one of complete and mutual understanding.

FATHER

Safe journey, Vincent

Father takes Vincent's face in his hands and kisses him tenderly. Then the two men embrace for a sustained, powerful moment. As they part, Father continues to hold Vincent's shoulders.

FATHER

Come back to us.

Father slowly lowers his arms. Vincent holds Father's look for another moment before he nods, then starts off with Winslow and Pascal...

JAMIE (o.s.)

Wait!

as Jamie steps forward, through the crowd, and presents herself to the trio. She's tentative, and doesn't speak at once.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

WINSLOW

(glowering)

Well, what do you want?

Jamie is shy but determined

JAMIE

I want to go with you

WINSLOW

(amused outrage)

What??

Jamie turns to Vincent, as if in appeal.

JAMIE

Catherine's my friend, too.

VINCENT

(sympathetic)

I know. But where we're going
is too far, and the way too
dangerous.

JAMIE

Too dangerous for who?

WINSLOW

(flashing)

For you.

JAMIE

(right back)

I can take care of myself. I
always have.

PASCAL

She's got a point.

WINSLOW

She's crazy --

VINCENT

(overlapping)

--Winslow.

WINSLOW

(to Vincent)

Well I'm right, ain't I? Girl's
got no business comin' along.
We all know that.Jamie looks pleadingly to Vincent, who's sympathetic and
genuinely feels bad about having to turn her away.

26 CONTINUED: (2)

VINCENT

I'm sorry, Jamie. It's for the Best.

Jamie does her best to show her indignation, but is near tears...

JAMIE

Best for who?

WINSLOW

Now get. Come on. You've slowed us down enough already.

Jamie regards the three travelers, her pride sorely injured, then turns and EXITS FRAME. Winslow regards Vincent and Pascal, slightly abashed. with Jamie gone, the hardass veneer falls away, and Winslow softens a bit.

WINSLOW

It's just cause I care for her. That's all.

Winslow is the first to pick up his pack and continue. And as Vincent and Pascal follow, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

27 OMITTED

27A INT. COLISEUM CHAMBER - PARACELSUS' CAVE - NIGHT

This is the small chamber from which Erlik emerged, almost two stories above the pit itself. It's more like a cave in here, with primitively crafted table and chairs, completely lined with books. The light is gray and dusty. And it's hot. Unbearably hot.

Erlik stands watching at the opening to the pit: arms crossed, impassive... as Cathy sits in one of the chairs, mopping her brow with a cloth. Paracelsus approaches, thrusting a deep, roughhewn wooden bowl before her.

PARACELSUS

Drink or you'll dehydrate.
(impatient; off her.
reluctance)

Go ahead. You're certainly no good to me dead.

(CONTINUED)

27A CONTINUED:

Cathy accepts the bowl with both hands. She holds the bowl close to her face, as if to smell it, then thirstily drinks its contents. Paracelsus watches neutrally as Cathy finishes drinking, then looks up at him, almost ashamed for having to drink anything proffered by this man. She regards him, defiant and inquisitive.

CATHY

Why? Why are you doing this?

Beat, then:

PARACELSUS

To reclaim my home.

As Paracelsus circles behind Cathy, his bitterness rising...

PARACELSUS

The world I created years ago.

CATHY

And almost destroyed.

PARACELSUS

No. It was wrested from me...
by the man you know as Father.
Just when I was so close to
everything I'd ever dreamed of
achieving. And even then, after
exiling me, he wouldn't allow me
to live in peace.

CATHY

I know the story, and it's not
that simple.

PARACELSUS

It is that simple.

CATHY

Fifty people died because of you.

PARACELSUS

I killed no one. They died
because they were fools.

CATHY

They were weak. There's a
difference...

(CONTINUED)

27A CONTINUED: (2)

Cathy stiffens as Paracelsus' black-gloved hand brushes away her hair, exposing her scarred cheek. She doesn't turn to him, but he's right there, over her shoulder, the naked half of his face slashed by shadows from his mask.

PARACELSUS

Ah, but you're not weak, are you, Catherine? You're strong, intrepid...

CATHY

(overlapping)
What do you want with me?

PARACELSUS

(ignoring her)
Once a person has been visited by violence, everything changes. Isn't that so?
(then)

Nietzsche said: "That which does not kill me makes me stronger."
Well I am stronger now. Strong enough to go home again.

CATHY

You still haven't answered my question.

Paracelsus yanks Cathy's chin up so that she can see him now. . .

PARACELSUS

Vincent is the answer to your question. He is all that stands between Father and me... in more ways than you know.

As Paracelsus removes his half mask, unveiling beneath it a grotesque patchwork of burned scar tissue. He holds Cathy's chin tightly, forcing her to regard his disfigurement.

PARACELSUS

And this is why I must destroy him.

Cathy doesn't flinch, not wanting to draw Vincent with her panic. Paracelsus releases her.

CATHY

I'm not afraid...

(CONTINUED)

27A CONTINUED: (3)

PARACELSUS

You will be.

(then)

You see, Vincent is also coming here to watch you die.

Cathy steels herself as Paracelsus addresses the giant.

PARACELSUS

Go now, Erlik. And make certain that Vincent continues his journey... unaccompanied.

DISSOLVE TO:

28 OMITTED

29 INT. MIDDLE TUNNELS

START on a pipe jutting from the ceiling of the tunnel, and FOLLOW it down to the uplifted faces of Pascal, Winslow, and Vincent.

PASCAL

The tapping's stopped.

VINCENT

Are you sure it's the same pipe?

Pascal extracts one of his sticks from his satchel. Taps on the pipe. Listens as the sound reverberates.

PASCAL

Positive. The tone's identical.

WINSLOW

What do we do now?

VINCENT

The only thing we can. We continue...

as they begin to follow the pipe, and turn a dog-leg in the tunnel. Before them gapes a large hole in the ground. A ladder, black from soot, rises out of the chamber. Vincent cautiously nears the edge, and looks down. Winslow and Pascal hover behind him.

30 VINCENT'S POV - NARCISSA

down in the hole, taking mineral scrapings from the tunnel wall. Her head tips back to observe Vincent and his friends -- white cataracts reflecting brilliantly. She smiles.

NARCISSA
Welcome, children.

31 RESUME SCENE

VINCENT
Narcissa!

NARCISSA
(magnanimous)
Vincent. Please, enter. Bring your friends.

Vincent, Pascal, and Winslow descend the ladder into the:

32 INT. HOLE CHAMBER

where Narcissa addresses them.

NARCISSA
And why do you come traveling so far?

VINCENT ~
We are searching for Catherine --

NARCISSA
The woman. The answer to all desire... the guide to the deepest chamber of the soul, the life of everything that lives, the death of everything that dies. Mother, sister, mistress, bride...

WINSLOW
(aside to Pascal)
What the hell's she talking about?

NARCISSA
(to Vincent)
Why do you seek the woman?

VINCENT
She was taken from her home. We're following the ghost of a message on the pipes.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

NARCISSA

And who do you say has taken her?

VINCENT

Paracelsus.

Narcissa visibly recoils at the sound of the name.

VINCENT

What is it, Narcissa?

NARCISSA

(evasive)

I am crazy old woman. Don't listen to me.

VINCENT

You have knowledge. Share it with us. It may help us on our journey.

Narcissa regards him. Finally, she reaches into the hidden folds of her clothing and extracts a handful of tiny sea shells. Beside her is a small table with a deep bowl carved in the thick dark wood. Narcissa throws the shells into the bowl... observes the result.

NARCISSA

Turn back, Vincent! Journey no more!

VINCENT

She is my life, Narcissa. I am bound by my heart to go on.

NARCISSA

(indicating shells)

There is death, I see it.

VINCENT

I must continue.

NARCISSA

Then my first duty is served. I have warned you.

VINCENT

I hear your warning.

Narcissa studies him for a long beat. Then, quietly, conspiratorially:

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

NARCISSA

Vincent, this man you know as
Paracelsus, he is not alone.

VINCENT

Have you seen him?

NARCISSA

No, but many down here follow him,
protect him. The simple ones,
the lost ones...

VINCENT

How many?

NARCISSA

(paranoid)

They fear my magic. But I have
said too much already...

VINCENT

Narcissa --

NARCISSA

(overriding)

Good luck, children. The way is
dangerous before you. But the
way... is beautiful.

She turns away from Vincent. Pascal and Winslow look
dubiously at each other. ON Vincent, weighing Narcissa's
words, we:

CUT TO:

32A INT. TUNNELS - SERIES OF SHOTS

A) STONE STAIRWAY

The three travelers, Vincent, Pascal, and Winslow,
descend the stone stairway, glowing lanterns lighting the
way. . .

B) DESCENDING TUNNEL

Huddled together in the CHAMBER OF THE WINDS, Vincent and
Winslow look to Pascal for direction. Uncertain, he
raises his arm, pointing to a distant archway -- and
forward they go...

(CONTINUED)

32A CONTINUED:

C) LONG TUNNEL

LONG SHOT as they steer down an impossibly long tunnel, three golden points of light marking their progress...

D) DEEP CREVASSE

Like mountaineers, they descend a free-hanging rope ladder inside a deep crevasse. (Production suggestion: redress the elevator shaft as the crevasse.)

DISSOLVE TO:

33 OMITTED

34 A FIRE

spits sparks and embers, encircled by stones

PASCAL (O.S.)

I studied everything he ever wrote. The early manuals are brilliant --

35 INT. CAVERN

with a high, vault-like ceiling. Vincent, Pascal, and Winslow sit around the fire, their packs leaned up against several scattered boulders, with straw mats and sleeping bags laid out on the ground nearby.

PASCAL

The codes, the schematics... It's hard to believe he's the same man.

VINCENT

Paracelsus is not the same man. What he has done proves that.

PASCAL

I know. But it still makes me sad. All that intelligence and energy...

Pascal trails off, shaking his head.

WINSLOW

You got a heart like a soft-boiled egg, you know that?

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

Pascal shrugs, privately defending the sadness he feels.
Then:

PASCAL

I'm going to bed. Wake me up when
it's my turn for watch.

WINSLOW

Yeah. Good night.

Vincent nods with a cursory smile, then turns back to the
fire, as Pascal rises and EXITS FRAME...

In the silence that follows, Winslow notices that Vincent
is lost in thought, staring into the fire.

WINSLOW

So what's on your mind? You've
been awful quiet since we left
this morning.

Over the following, Vincent's eyes remain fixed on the fire.

VINCENT

I'm just -- thinking... wondering.

WINSLOW

About Catherine?

VINCENT

Yes...

(then)

If she is in danger, why am I
not feeling her fear?

WINSLOW

Don't worry, we'll bring her back.

Vincent nods, appreciating his friend's concern. Vincent
continues to regard Winslow, and after a moment:

VINCENT

When you came to me yesterday,
to offer your help, you said you
had... reasons.

WINSLOW

(beat)

Yeah

VINCENT

Is it Paracelsus?

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

Winslow doesn't answer right away. He stokes the fire, deeply disturbed as the distant past works its way into the present...

WINSLOW

I was just a kid when we came to the tunnels. My mother had died and there was just my brother, John and me. He was ten years older, but he was big for eighteen... and strong. So when the Council voted to exile Paracelsus, John was part of the group they sent.

VINCENT

To see Paracelsus beyond the perimeter...

Winslow nods. What follows is painful and emotional for him, and it's as though he's seeing in the fire.

WINSLOW

Only Paracelsus didn't want to go. They were crossing the bridge in the Whispering Gallery... when Paracelsus started to put up a fight... and he shoved John over the edge... into the abyss.

Winslow quickly wipes at a gathering tear

VINCENT

(sympathetic)

Winslow. . .

WINSLOW

(overlapping; bitter)

So I grew up in the tunnels alone, in a place John promised me was safe, always knowing deep down that the exile wasn't punishment enough.

VINCENT

I'm sorry...

Winslow nods, steeling himself against the fresh pain and bitterness of an old memory by changing the subject. After a moment:

WINSLOW

Anyway... Whyn't you get some rest. I'll keep watch.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (3)

VINCENT

I'm not tired. But you should
sleep. We've had a long day.

After a beat, Winslow nods, grudgingly accepting Vincent's offer. But something still bothers him.

WINSLOW

(rising)
Good night.

VINCENT

Good night, Winslow

Winslow takes a few steps away, then:

WINSLOW

Vincent?

Vincent looks over his shoulder at Winslow

WINSLOW

I want you to know: I'm not doin'
this just because of John. He's
dead. I accepted that a long time
ago.

(then)

It's also because... I happen to
like Catherine. She's a good
woman -- I've always said so.
What's between you two is
something I've never known myself.
But seeing it, I know it's real...
and I believe in it.

Winslow's look connects with Vincent: it's the most intimate moment they've ever shared. Then he turns his back without another word and moves to his sleeping mat. Vincent looks after him with nothing less than the love of a brother, then returns his attention to the fire...

DISSOLVE TO:

36 INT. DEEP TUNNELS - NEXT DAY

The trio forges ahead, still following the pipe along a rocky-walled tunnel. A light mist floats down the tunnel towards them, like a spirit.

TIME LAPSE DISSOLVE TO:

37 OMITTED

38 INT. DEEP TUNNELS

The mist has become a heavy fog that now swirls, all but blinding them. Vincent puts his hood up against the cold. Pascal and Winslow cover their mouths and noses with thick scarves, like caravan traders in the Sahara. Leading the way, Vincent reaches back for Winslow's hand, and Winslow, in turn, reaches back for Pascal's. Together in a chain, they proceed -- making slow step-by-step progress. After a while, Vincent stops and gestures with his free arm towards the pipe.

VINCENT

Look...

Pascal and Winslow look to the pipe on the wall... stops abruptly, rusting off at its corroded rim.

WINSLOW

What now?

Pascal moves to examine the pipe. Then he kneels and, brushing away some sand, reveals the broken end of the pipe, lying half-buried on the ground. He follows it ten yards or so, until both the fragment and the tunnel wall come to an end. They are:

38A INT. UNDERGROUND LAKE

Although to them it is just some huge chamber, the water obscured completely by the fog. Pascal lifts his head to Vincent.

PASCAL

That's it. It end here.

39 CLOSE ON - VINCENT

considering the alternatives...

WINSLOW'S VOICE

Where the hell are we?

40 OMITTED

41 RESUME SCENE

Vincent refocuses on Pascal who still crouches near the ground -- when suddenly, the fragmented section of the pipe heaves up underneath the small man and sends him catapulting backward. Vincent whirls around -

42 HIS POV - ERLIK

A colossus rising out of the swirling mist. He advances on Vincent and Winslow, holding the section of pipe in front of him like a massive club.

43 RESUME SCENE

Vincent roars and charges, but Erlik catches him mid-stride with a heavy blow to the shoulder that sends Vincent smashing sideways to the sandy ground.

44 NEW ANGLE - WINSLOW

reacting, as Erlik closes in on him. Winslow feints to his left, and then grabs hold of the free end of the pipe. They struggle for a moment... until the giant drives with his legs. The pipe forces through Winslow's hands and impacts his chest, jousting him powerfully backward. Winslow's head snaps forward, and he crumples.

44A ANGLE - PASCAL

still on the ground, horrified by the sight.

45 VINCENT

staggers to his feet, in the full throes of bestial rage. Snarling and roaring, he attacks the towering Erlik, who turns to face the full force of Vincent's fury. Already upon him, Vincent rips and slashes with his protracted claws. At first, Erlik retreats from the onslaught, his chest gashed open. But when Vincent surges forward in a second wave, Erlik uses Vincent's momentum to heave him up over his head, flip him over, and send him crashing to the ground...

Erlik moves in, as if to deliver the finishing blow, but passes Vincent, moving instead to Pascal, who scuttles along the sand in a futile effort to avoid the giant, who is upon him in no time. Erlik raises his fists over Pascal's head, when he suddenly jerks forward -- struck by something in his upper back. He reaches for it and, with a grimace, pulls an arrow out of his shoulder. He turns to see:

46 HIS POV - JAMIE - THROUGH FOG

framed by the tunnel entrance, reloading a homemade crossbow. A quiver of arrows is strapped to her back.

47 RESUME SCENE

Erlik advances menacingly toward her. Jamie lets another arrow fly -- this one striking Erlik in the chest. The giant groans loudly in pain, and then plucks the arrow out. Jamie begins to reload quickly, almost frantically, as:

48 VINCENT

pushes back up on to his feet and moves toward the giant, but stops abruptly:

48A HIS POV

nothing but swirling mist. Erlik has vanished into the heavy fog, and:

48B ANGLE - JAMIE

who's managed to reload, but now finds herself aiming at nothing... Immediately, she joins Vincent, who has rushed back towards Winslow. Pascal is already there, huddled down, cradling Winslow's head in his arms. He glances up at Vincent and Jamie, tears and shock in his eyes.

PASCAL

He's dead.

ON Vincent, reacting to the news, powerfully saddened, we

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

49 INT. UNDERGROUND LAKE

The fog has dissipated, though residual patches hover here and there, over lake and shore. In the bleak light, around a stone grave stands Vincent, Jamie, and Pascal, mourning their dead friend. After a long, silent moment:

PASCAL

I'm remembering when we were kids.
How we used to tease Winslow.
He would try so hard not to lose
his temper, but you could always
see everything in his face.
Remember at the Common meeting
when Father named him to the Council.
You could see it then,
in his eyes -- that he finally
knew how much we cared and
respected him.

VINCENT

That's a good memory to have.

50 ANGLE -

stoic, strangely numb.

51 RESUME SCENE

VINCENT

Winslow loved all of us.
Fiercely. We were his family.
Nothing could ever change that
for him. Not conflict. Not
anger. Not even death. Winslow
will always be part of us. In
our hearts. Let us remember him
for his strength... and for his
courage.

Vincent places his lantern beside the rock mound. Jamie looks down at her hands, but she can't dam the tears which begin to well, or still the convulsive sobs which begin to shake her body. Vincent sees this, and takes Jamie into his arms. Jamie accepts Vincent's comfort, and begins to cry openly, burying her face in Vincent's chest. Her pain brings Vincent's to the surface.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

VINCENT

(softly)

He'll continue to live, Jamie...
through us... through our memory
of him.

(then)

Allow yourself the time to mourn...
and your pain will soften. I promise.

Pascal steps up to his friends, regarding them sadly.
After a moment, Jamie disengages from Vincent, wiping
her tears with her sleeve, struggling to regain her
composure.

JAMIE

(with resolve)

We have to go on...

VINCENT

I must go alone.

JAMIE

Please Vincent --

VINCENT

No.

The tragedy of Winslow has instilled in Vincent a
determination that invites no discussion. Yet he is
remorseful for his brusqueness.

VINCENT

I'm sorry: but I am responsible
for what's happened...

PASCAL

We came by our own choice, all
of us.

VINCENT

I am still responsible. And I
can no longer share that burden...
even with my friends.

Vincent is intractable

PASCAL

Where will you go? How will you
find your way?

VINCENT

I'll follow the shore... around
this lake. Or I'll cross it.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (2)

PASCAL
What about us?

Vincent regards Pascal and Jamie, and after a beat:

VINCENT
You must go back. Tell Father
and the others what happened
here... and why I had to continue
alone.

Pascal nods, while Jamie regards Vincent, consoled and adult enough to understand the importance of Vincent's request. All is quiet -- save for the dancing wind, which is still touching her heels down, here and there, in the half-lifted fog.

DISSOLVE TO:

52
thru OMITTED
54

54A INT. UNDERGROUND LAKE - LATER

Vincent walks alone, hugging the shore, where a strange blue hue glows around the circumference. His steps are heavy, as he reconciles Winslow's death and anticipates his confrontation with Paracelsus. Occasionally, he lifts his head to take in the ironic beauty of the lake, its expanse and mystery. Then something catches his attention.

55
thru OMITTED
56

57 VINCENT'S POV

a lean-to about fifty yards away, near water's edge. Smoke drifts upward from the clay chimney, and there is a kind of skiff or gondola floating in the water, moored by a rope to a stake in the sand.

58 RESUME VINCENT

as he moves toward the lean-to. When he's about ten yards from the structure, he calls out:

VINCENT
Hello!

He pauses before calling again.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

VINCENT

Hello.

Just as a small man (WATERMAN) emerges from the lean-to, harried, cranky, and altogether unsurprised by Vincent's appearance. He's anywhere between sixty and eighty, with long white hair and a scruffy beard, wearing a robe-like outfit woven of coarse cotton.

WATERMAN

What're you yelling for? I heard you fine the first time.

Waterman's look transforms quickly from expectation to impatience.

WATERMAN

Well, what do you want?

VINCENT

I need to cross the water.

WATERMAN

It's a long way. What's there?

VINCENT

A man... Paracelsus.

WATERMAN

Never heard of him.

(then, shrugs)

Anyway, I can't take you. I'm too busy.

As Waterman turns back to his lean-to...

VINCENT

Please --

(Waterman pauses, turns)

Your boat...

WATERMAN

What about my boat?

VINCENT

I borrow it?

Waterman scratches his chin while he looks Vincent over, appraisingly.

WATERMAN

Do you have any money?

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (2)

VINCENT
 (incredulous)
 -- Money?

WATERMAN
 What, you expect me to give my
 one worldly possession to a
 complete stranger? Without
 compensation? I may be old, but
 I'm not stupid.

VINCENT
 I have no money...

WATERMAN
 Then I have no boat.

The last syllable fades away as Vincent almost accidentally feels for and finds the melted gold coin. Greatly surprised himself, he holds the coin out for Waterman, who all but snatches it from Vincent's palm, eyeing it with satisfaction.

WATERMAN
 This'll do. This is just fine.

And he pockets the coin right away, not missing a beat as he circles around to the back of the lean-to. Vincent follows...

59 ANGLE - BOAT

From here we can see that it's little more than a narrow raft: a flat-bottomed rectangle with shallow sides.

WATERMAN
 So who are you anyway?

VINCENT
 My name is Vincent.

Ignoring -- or at least not responding to Vincent's -- Waterman pulls out a ten-foot pole impaled in the sand.

WATERMAN
 (handing the pole to him)
 It's shallow enough, so you can
 use this to push off the bottom.

He gestures impatiently to the waiting skiff.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

WATERMAN

Come on. I don't have all day.

Vincent steps into the boat, and:

PRODUCTION NOTE: DIALOGUE TO FOLLOW

60 OMITTED

61 RESUME SCENE

As Waterman unhooks the looped rope, and tosses it into the boat, which starts to drift out a little. Vincent plumbs the depth with the pole. And as Vincent disappears into the darkness of the lake, we:

CUT TO:

62 A PYRE

of wood and thatch, behind which stands four tall and massive Stonehenge-like monoliths.

PARACELSUS

This is the stage upon which your death will be played...

WIDEN slowly to reveal:

63 INT. COLISEUM PIT

the pyre is set back into a ground-level cavern, framing it like a shrine. Erlik's arms are wrapped around one of the massive monoliths, as he lifts it and places it closer to the mound. Cathy stands between Paracelsus and the ominous pyre.

WARNING: THIS IS DUMMY DIALOGUE

PARACELSUS

... before Vincent.

CATHY

I'm not afraid to die.

PARACELSUS

Good.

CATHY

But I'm not in a hurry, either.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

with that, she barrels into Paracelsus, and choosing quickly from among the dozen tunnel entrances, finds the one through which she first passed with Paracelsus.

64
thru OMITTED
65

66 INT. LABYRINTH - MOVING

with Cathy, as she runs through the dark tunnel, coming at once to a fork. She makes the split second choice, goes right, disappearing into the dusty light.

67 ANGLE - CATHY

running down a long stretch, harder and harder, around a dog leg, and soon comes to another fork, this time choosing to go left. She glances back over her shoulder as she passes a perpendicular junction, and decides to continue past it. But the tunnel dead ends a hundred yards further up. Fighting fatigue, she sprints back to the perpendicular junction, and into the adjacent tunnel...

as Cathy takes another dog-leg, really hard, pushing herself to the limit, past that invisible wall within herself... when she sees a golden light at the end of this stretch of tunnel. She sprints for it, and we are with her as she passes through, into the light, and...

68
thru OMITTED
70

71 INT. COLLISEUM PIT - CONTINUOUS

as Cathy trips and falls headlong onto the ground. Gasping for oxygen, she lifts her head, realizing with horror that she's back where she started. Erlik steps up to her, towering over her fallen figure, just as a deep laughter begins, echoing through the high chamber. Cathy turns to find Paracelsus, standing where she left him. Over his demonic laughter, CAMERA PULLS BACK as Cathy grows smaller, framing her utter helplessness.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

72 INT. UNDERGROUND LAKE - OPPOSITE SHORE

Vincent pulls his raft onto the beach, beside a dory. His eyes travel up the steep bank.

73 HIS POV

Erlik's footsteps mark a clear path in the mud, tracking up to a huge stone archway inlaid in the tunnel wall.

74 RESUME SCENE

Vincent glances back over his shoulder at the two crafts. Eyes narrowing in thought. He turns and pushes the dory back into the water, setting it adrift. PUSH IN on Vincent's face as he watches the current carry the dory gently into the darkness. His expression tells us of the intent and gamble of his decision.

CUT TO:

75 INT. LABYRINTH ENTRANCE

Vincent passes underneath the stone archway into an antechamber -- where Erlik's footsteps come to an end on the hard-packed soil. Immediately, the heat hits him like a physical blow, his hand instinctively shielding his face from the fevered air...

76 INT. NARROWING TUNNEL

A choice of three tunnels fans out before him. Vincent opts for the one in the middle, and, ducking his head, enters. But as he proceeds, the passage grows narrower and narrower, until he can no longer squeeze through. He is forced to turn around, and...

77 INT. FORKING TUNNEL

Back in the antechamber, Vincent now chooses the tunnel to the right. Once inside, it immediately forks again. Confronted with yet another decision, Vincent pauses, considering... He makes his choice.

CUT TO:

78
thru OMITTED
82

83 INT. DEEP TUNNELS - LABYRINTH

Vincent passes volcanic rock formations (as did Paracelsus and Cathy in the first act). Fissures in the walls release pressure in the form of jets of steam. Vincent presses on...

PRODUCTION NOTE: VINCENT ENCOUNTERS HORRIFIC SKELETON WEARING CATHY'S SWEATSHIRT AND PENDANT (TO BE SCRIPTED)

CUT TO:

84 OMITTED

85 INT. COLISEUM CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

Vincent cautiously steps out into the dusty gray light of the pit, turning, scanning all around him. No one is there. No sound. No movement. Vincent steps toward the center, calling out...

VINCENT
Catherine!

His voice echoes and re-echoes throughout the vast room. When the last, distant syllable dies, Vincent calls out again.

VINCENT
Paracelsus...

This time, Paracelsus' voice echoes hauntingly from some unseen source.

PARACELSUS (o.s.)
"Better to reign in hell, than
serve in heav'n," eh, Vincent?

VINCENT
Paracelsus...

PARACELSUS (o.s.)
Milton, actually.

Vincent scans the cavern mouths. Still nothing. He hears a shuffling noise...

VINCENT
Show yourself.

PARACELSUS (o.s.)
In time...

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED;

Silence. Long beat. Vincent's concentration is intense, piqued. Then, he senses something, and heads toward one side of the pit, when:

PARACELSUS(o.s.)
Over here, Vincent.

Vincent wheels around, and:

86
thru OMITTED
88

89 HIS POV - PARACELSUS

stands in a second level arch behind Vincent, unmasked, grotesque.

90 ANOTHER ANGLE

as Vincent moves carefully toward Paracelsus

VINCENT
Where's Catherine?

PARACELSUS
You still don't understand...

VINCENT
I've come for Catherine.

PARACELSUS
(emphatic)
You've also come for yourself.

VINCENT
No.

PARACELSUS
And you deserve to know the truth
before you die.

Vincent stops now, before and below Paracelsus, almost afraid to hear this, but knowing that he must. And after a long beat, Paracelsus continues, like some grand inquisitor delivering a sentence:

PARACELSUS
You should know that it was I who
found you... wrapped in rags.
Starving. It was I who saved your
life... from what fate, only God
can say.

91 CLOSE - VINCENT

as the words sink in, words he knows are the truth.

PARACELSUS (o.s.)
I named you Vincent.

92 RESUME SCENE

PARACELSUS
And I found this around your neck.

As Paracelsus tosses something twenty feet down to Vincent, who catches it in both hands.

93 CU - GOLD LOCKET

a tarnished and slightly dented heart-shaped charm on a delicate gold chain.

94 RESUME SCENE

PARACELSUS
Open it.

Tentatively, Vincent opens the locket. Inside there's a tiny photograph, sepia-toned and cracked, of an attractive dark-haired woman. Vincent regards this link to his past with awe...

CATHY (o.s.)
Vincent

Yanked from the past, Vincent whirls around.

95 HIS POV - CATHY

emerging from the shadow of Paracelsus' second-level cave -- shaken, sad, and afraid for what is about to happen.

VINCENT
Catherine...

96 RESUME SCENE

Vincent quickly pockets the locket, but as he hastens toward Catherine, Erlik steps from the shadow in front of her. Vincent stops, as Erlik pushes off with one hand vaulting twenty feet to the ground below.

(CONTINUED)

96 CONTINUED:

The two mythic creatures face off squarely in the center of the pit. Above them, on opposite sides of the coliseum, Paracelsus and Catherine watch their respective champions...

Vincent is better prepared this time, and knows that his advantages are speed and agility. As Erlik advances with a mighty blow, Vincent ducks beneath it and pivots, facing Erlik now from the other side. Erlik wheels around, sweeping Vincent's space to grab him close. Vincent sidesteps the attempt by inches, following through with a slashing attack which draws first blood from the side of Erlik's head and neck.

Erlik is stunned, as Vincent advances with a series of quick strikes, only some of which Erlik manages to parry. Vincent's attack staggers the giant, sending him backward several yards, covering his face.

97 LOW ANGLE (OVERCRANK) - VINCENT

as he issues a blood-curdling ROAR and springs toward the giant -- virtually horizontal, like a lion leaping in for the kill. But Erlik catches Vincent's full force, and uses the momentum to heave Vincent over his shoulder, smashing Vincent against the sharp obsidian wall. Vincent falls to the ground, but pushes himself up -- just as Erlik reaches him, lifting him effortlessly overhead and flinging him into the center of the pit.

98 ANGLE - CATHY

feeling the bone-crushing pain of Vincent's fall

CATHY

Vincent!

99 VINCENT

turns toward her voice, and:

100 HIS POV

fuzzy around the edges of his vision: it is Catherine.

101 ANGLE

as Vincent gets up again to face the approaching giant, though his legs can scarcely support his weight. Vincent swings at Erlik, but the giant easily parries the blow, and hammers with both hands at the base of Vincent's neck. Vincent crumbles to his knees... then Erlik pounds him again, to the very edge of consciousness.

PRODUCTION NOTE: FIGHT CONTINUES -- VINCENT VANQUISHES GIANT, SAVES CATHY FROM THE FLAMES - TO BE SCRIPTED

102
thru OMITTED
109

110 INT. UNDERGROUND LAKE - LATER

Vincent and Cathy now sit huddled close in the shallow hull of the raft, letting the current carry them homeward. Cathy is holding the locket in her palm, gazing at the photograph inside.

PRODUCTION NOTE: DIALOGUE TO FOLLOW

THE END